

**REMARKS**

The present Amendment cancels claims 1-38 and adds new claims 39-48. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 39-48.

Claims 11, 20, 29, 31, 33 and 35 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as their invention. As indicated above, claims 11, 20, 29, 31, 33 and 35 were canceled.

Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot.

Claims 11, 14, 17-20, 22, 23, 27 and 29-38 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Hirasawa (U.S. Patent No. 5,655,079). As indicated above, claims 11, 14, 17-20, 22, 23, 27 and 29-38 were canceled. Therefore, this rejection is rendered moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 11, 14, 17-20, 22, 23, 27 and 29-38 was not intended nor should it be considered as an agreement on Applicants part that the features recited in claims 11, 14, 17-20, 22, 23, 27 and 29-38 are taught or suggested by Hirasawa. The cancellation of these claims was simply intended to expedite prosecution of the present application.

The present Amendment adds claims 39-48 which are directed to a distributed information integrating method and apparatus for integrating information distributively stored in plural processing devices in a distributed information processing system in which the plural processing devices are connected to one another through transmission media and a series of processing operations are distributed performed.

According to the present invention at least one processing device collects data stored in the first processing device according to a predetermined collecting condition in response to an occurrence of an event serving as a trigger and the first processing device transmits the collected data to the first processing device or a second processing device of an original data request side. Further, according to the present invention the first processing device integrates the collected data received from the first processing device according to a predetermined integrating condition and sends the integrated data to a request destination.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly recited in the claims are directed, for example, to features of the present invention illustrated, for example, in Fig. 16 as element 1302. In fact, new claims 39-48 recite features similar to those recited in the claims of the parent Patent No. 6,038,564.

The above described features of the present invention now more clearly as recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Hirasawa whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

Hirasawa teaches a data transmission method for a multi-computer system which are connected to each other via a transmission line. As taught in Hirasawa, transmission data of a sending computer is provided with a location where the address is assigned and a location where the content code indicating the data content is assigned. In Hirasawa, the sending computer transmits the data with either the address or content code assigned and the computers other than the sending computer decides whether or not to receive

the data according to either the address or the content code. Thus, Hirasawa is simply directed to a method and apparatus for transmitting and receiving data across a network such that transmissions which are directed to a particular computer are responded to by only the particular computer as a result of monitoring the address and content code being sent with the data to be transmitted.

The present invention is entirely different from that taught by Hirasawa being that according to the present invention as recited in the claims the intent is to integrate information which may be distributed across a plurality of processing devices. According to the present invention as recited in the claims, data stored in the processing devices are collected according to a predetermined collecting condition in response to an occurrence of an event as a trigger and the collected data is transmitted to the first processing device or a second processing device of an original data request side. The processing device upon receiving the collected data integrates the collected data according to a predetermined integrating medium and sends the integrated data to a request destination. Such features are clearly not taught or suggested by Hirasawa.

Thus, Hirasawa fails to teach or suggest collecting, by at least one first processing device, data stored in the first processing device according to a predetermined collecting condition in response to occurrence of an event serving as a trigger as recited in the claims.

Further, Hirasawa fails to teach or suggest transmitting, by the first processing device, the collected data to the first processing device or a

second processing data of an original data request side as recited in the claims.

Still further, Hirasawa fails to teach or suggest integrating, by the first processing device, the collected data received from the first processing device according to a predetermined integrated condition and sending, by the first processing device, the integrated to a request destination as recited in the claims.

Therefore, as is quite clear from the above, the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Hirasawa whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Accordingly, the present invention as recited in the claims is not anticipated nor render obvious by the Hirasawa whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that claims 39-48 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 39-48 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (566.36161CX1).

Respectfully submitted,

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